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HUANG JIA WEI

INFECTED

JD MORVAN

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SHARE
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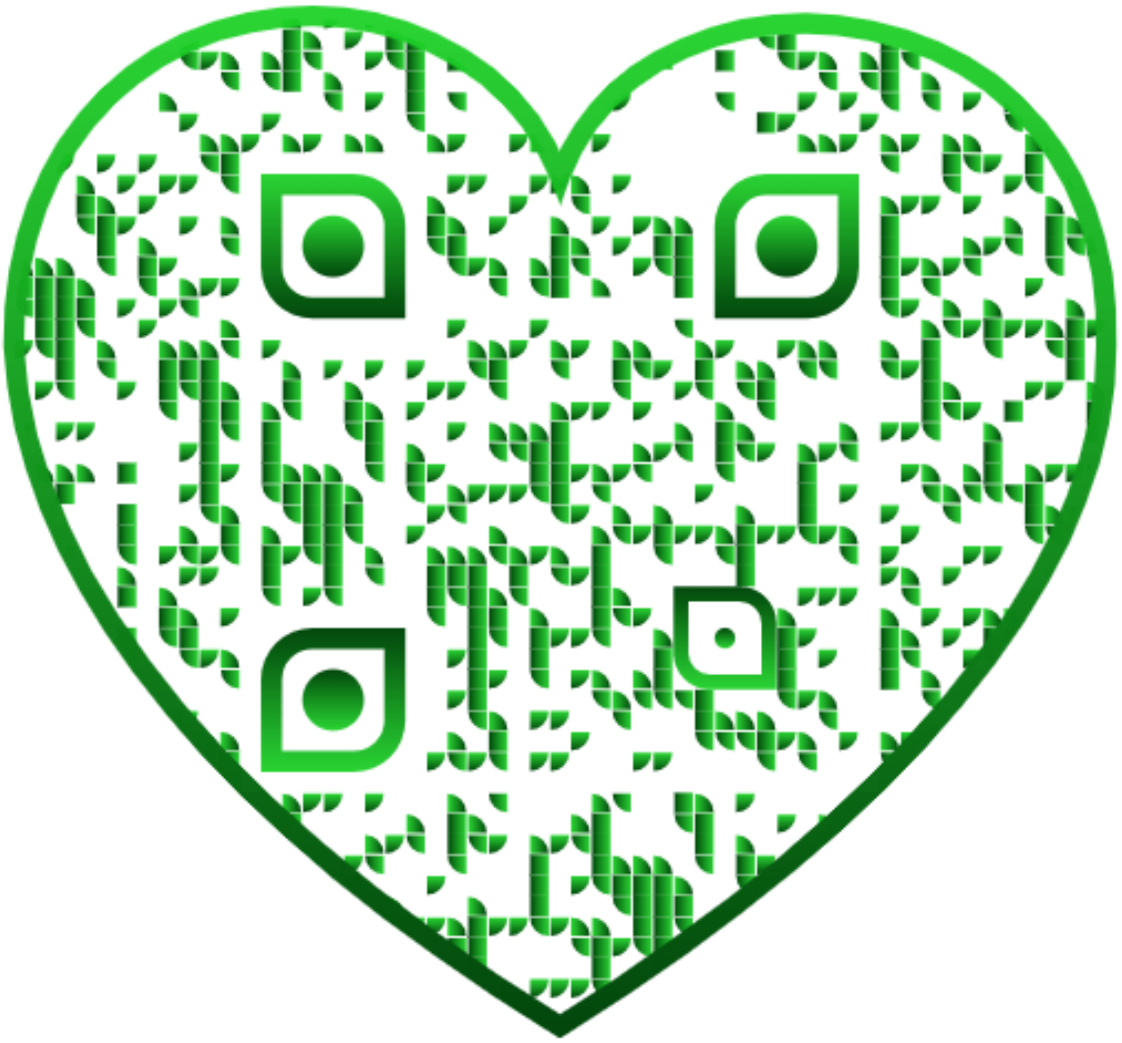

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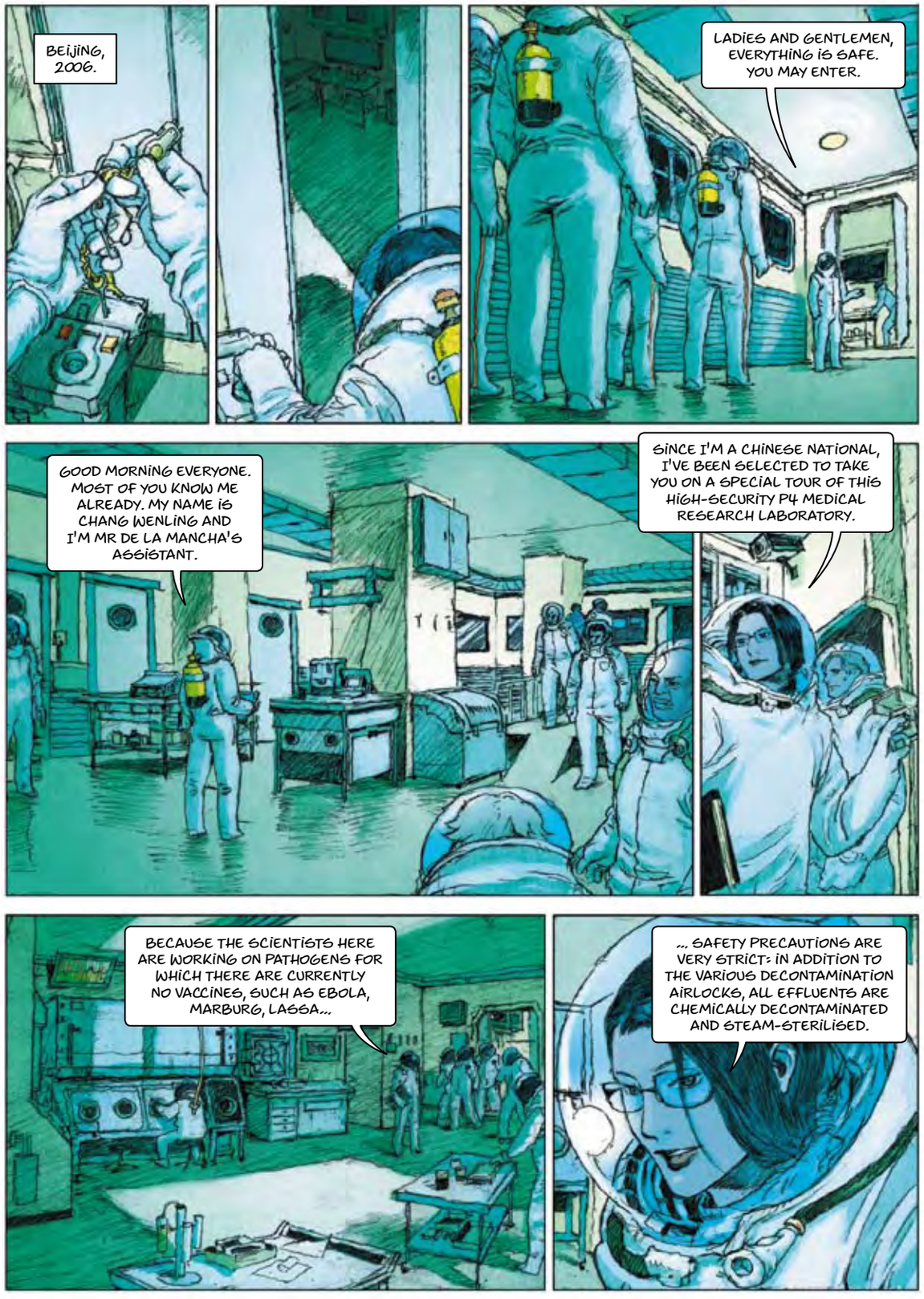

BEIJING, 2006.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, EVERYTHING IS SAFE. YOU MAY ENTER.
GOOD MORNING EVERYONE. MOST OF YOU KNOW ME ALREADY. MY NAME IS CHANG WENLING AND I'M MR DE LA MANCHA'S ASSISTANT.
SINCE I'M A CHINESE NATIONAL, I'VE BEEN SELECTED TO TAKE YOU ON A SPECIAL TOUR OF THIS HIGH-SECURITY P4 MEDICAL RESEARCH LABORATORY.
BECAUSE THE SCIENTISTS HERE ARE WORKING ON PATHOGENS FOR WHICH THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO VACCINES, SUCH AS EBOLA, MARBURG, LASSA...
... SAFETY PRECAUTIONS ARE VERY STRICT: IN ADDITION TO THE VARIOUS DECONTAMINATION AIRLOCKS, ALL EFFLUENTS ARE CHEMICALLY DECONTAMINATED AND STEAM-STERILISED.

THE FIRE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS ARE EXTREMELY STRICT: IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE, THE AIR SUPPLY WOULD CUT OFF AUTOMATICALLY.

FOR THIS REASON, AND ALSO TO PREVENT STAFF FROM INHALING ANY VIRUSES, THE AIR WE ARE BREATHING COMES FROM OUTSIDE. I REMIND YOU THAT WE ONLY HAVE A 20-MINUTE AIR SUPPLY IN OUR OXYGEN TUBES.

ISN'T MY NEW ASSISTANT JUST BRILLIANT?

QUITE. IT'S GREAT HAVING SOMEONE WHO CAN DELIVER THE SPIEL.

GENTLEMEN, PLEASE. NOT EVERYONE HAS OUR LEVEL OF EXPERTISE.

IN PERSONAL ASSISTANTS YOU MEAN?

HA HA.

HE'S INCORRIGIBLE!

ALL AREAS ARE UNDER CONSTANT CAMERA SURVEILLANCE, AND THERE ARE NO BLIND SPOTS. THIS MEANS THAT THE GUARDS IN THE CONTROL ROOM CAN DETECT ANY INTRUDERS, IF BY ANY STROKE OF LUCK THEY'RE ABLE TO GET THIS FAR.

RIGHT, LET'S MOVE ON TO THE NEXT ROOM SO WE CAN GET INTO MORE SCIENTIFIC DETAIL.

WHOOSH

THAT LIGHT?

A FLASH?

WHAT WAS IT?

THAT'S INCREDIBLE!

IMPOSSIBLE!!

WEIRD!

THAT...

AN INTRUDER!

I'M ALIVE...

THEY... THEY DID IT...

IT WOR-KED!!!!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!!!!

EVACUATE THE VIPS!!

BUT, WHAT?!...

HANDS UP!!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT MYSELF!!

HA HA HA!!

HA HA HA!!

HA HA HA!!

HA HA HA!!

HA HA HA!!

DO YOU SPEAK CHINESE?

NO. BUT I DO SPEAK ENGLISH.

TELL US WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE!

AND HOW DID YOU GET HERE, BECAUSE...

I'VE WATCHED THE FOOTAGE OVER AND OVER AND I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND.

IT'S ALL A BIT CRAZY. I KNOW YOU WON'T BELIEVE ME.

LET ME IN!!

I HAVE MY ORDERS, SIR.

CERTAINLY, AND YOU HAVE SPECIAL ONES REGARDING MY PERSON.

I'M SAMUEL DE LA MANCHA, **UN** SPECIAL ENVOY ON INFLUENZA, PANDEMICS, FOOD SECURITY, AND M.O.I.*

* MANY OTHER ISSUES

I'M SORRY, SIR, I... I DIDN'T KNOW.

AND THAT'S THE PROBLEM...

TO KEEP YOU IN THE PICTURE, THE PEOPLE FOLLOWING HIM ARE CHARLOTTE LEMAGNE, SPECIAL COORDINATING AGENT ON EMERGING THREATS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION.

AND JACK FROST, VSHA.

VSHA?

U.S. SPECIAL ENVOY FOR VERY SCARY HEALTH AFFAIRS...

IN THE BUSINESS, THEY'RE KNOWN AS 'THE 3 SPECIALS.'

ALONG WITH THEIR THREE ASSISTANTS: BJORN SNEJBERG, GHISLAIN TINGREY AND CHANG WENLING.

HOW... HOW DO YOU KNOW OUR NAMES AND POSITIONS?

FOR THE SIMPLE AND VERY GOOD REASON THAT **YOU** ARE THE ONES I'VE COME TO MEET.

COME FROM WHERE?!

BEING RUDE TO HIM WON'T GET US ANYWHERE.

THANK YOU, BUT I PREPARED MYSELF FOR THIS... IN 2111. IN MY DEVASTATED WORLD.

LISTEN CAREFULLY, AT FIRST YOU'LL THINK I'M CRAZY AND YOU WILL SOON FORGET ME...

BUT IT'LL ALL COME BACK TO YOU IN DUE TIME.

ONE DAY, A MAJOR EPIDEMIC WILL STRIKE WHICH WILL AFFECT ONE OF YOU IN PARTICULAR.

AND YOU WILL NEED MY HELP.

AFTER IT HAPPENS, YOU MUST DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO MAKE POLITICAL DECISIONS THAT ENSURE THAT THE FUTURE **NEVER** BECOMES THE ONE I COME FROM.

HERE IN THESE TUBES, I HAVE NEW BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL THAT CAN NIP ANY PANDEMIC IN THE BUD.

TAKE THIS AND KEEP IT WITH YOU, MS WENLING...

PLEASE.

NO, DON'T WORRY.

THERE'S NO RISK OF THIS PHONE BEING TAPPED.

IT'S A MOBILE AND CARD THAT I JUST BOUGHT FROM A STALL IN DONG TANG ZI HUTONG.

PUT ME THROUGH TO HIM QUICKLY THEN.

WE'RE USING UP THE CREDIT.

SOTUIJE, MAKE IT QUICK.

I'M BUSY, MY FRIEND.

YOU KNOW I NEVER BOTHER YOU FOR NO REASON, SIR.

SOMETHING INCREDIBLE HAPPENED TODAY IN THE P4 LAB IN BEIJING.

SOMETHING THAT COULD BRING IN HUGE PROFITS FOR YOUR "ORGANISATION".

I'VE GOT TO TELL YOU ABOUT IT...

A MAN APPEARS OUT OF NOWHERE? **YOU CAN'T EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT!**

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS, MY FRIEND.

YOU KNOW I'M SERIOUS. AND I WAS SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE EVEN MORE RATIONAL THAN MYSELF.

NO-ONE COULD UNDERSTAND WHAT HAD HAPPENED.

WHICH MEANS THAT IT WASN'T A TRICK.

AND THEREFORE, HE MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN LYING.

IF WE COULD JUST GET OUR HANDS ON THOSE VIALS OF BIOLOGICAL MATTER, WE COULD SELL THEM TO THE HIGHEST-BIDDING PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY AT THE PRECISE MOMENT THAT THE EPIDEMIC IS TERRORISING THE PLANET.

WE? YOU SAID 'WE'.

SO WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER, MY DEAR FRIEND?

IN THIS BUSINESS, I NEED YOU AS MUCH AS YOU NEED ME TO MAKE A FORTUNE BIGGER THAN OUR WILDEST DREAMS.

HMM, FAIR POINT. SO WHAT DO WE HAVE TO DO?

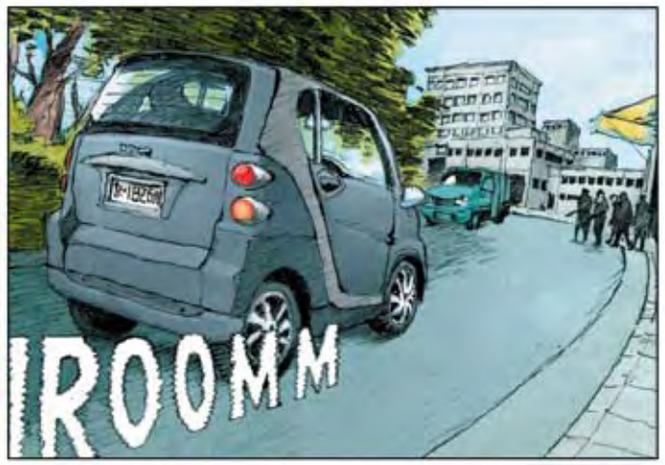
IN FIVE HOURS, I'LL BE ON THE SQUAD IN CHARGE OF TRANSFERRING THE VISITOR TO THE USA.

I'LL TRY TO STEAL THE TUBES HE'S CARRYING.

TAXI

ONE WILL BE ENOUGH. WE'LL GIVE IT TO THE LAB THAT MAKES THE HIGHEST BID AND THEY'LL ONLY NEED ONE TO DISCOVER THE FORMULA AND MASS-PRODUCE THE STUFF.

CONSIDER IT DONE.


ROOMM

A CAR?

CHILL OUT GUYS, IT'S JUST ME.

SOTUIJE, I'M SURE YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE PART OF THE ESCORT.

INDEED!

BANG

YOU, IN THE CAR!!
BANG

BANG

BLAM

BLAM
PLINK

VROOO

KRAAK

HAHAHA, I'M RICH.

I KNEW YOU WERE GOING TO DO THAT.

WHAT... WHO ASKED YOU TO SPEAK?

THE HISTORY BOOKS. YOU ARE WELL KNOWN IN THE FUTURE AND NOT EXACTLY AS THE GOOD GUY. I RECOGNISED YOU RIGHT AWAY IN THE LAB.

SEE YOU... LATER.

CREAK

花梗菜市场

DAMN, HE ESCAPED!!

IT'S LIKE HE KNEW THE PLACE LIKE THE BACK OF HIS HAND...

?!!

BRUSSELS AIRPORT

ASEAN - SAARC UNITED AIR

YOUR PHONE, IT'S RINGING.

THANKS, I WAS JUST LISTENING TO A REPORT ON MY TABLET.

NOT THAT ONE...

WELL, ONE...

OR THAT ONE...

...OF YOUR...

I GOT IT!

...TELEPHONES.

TOO LATE, THEY HUNG UP.

TRY RESTING UP A LITTLE, MR DE LA MANCHA.

I'LL CALL BACK. HAVE A GOOD WEEKEND, WENLING.

HELLO?!

AN APPEARANCE ON SWISS TELEVISION?

I'LL DO IT!

IN FRENCH? OH DEAR!

A TROPICAL COUNTRY IN ASIA. TIME HAS PASSED.

TO END THIS REPORT...

AROUND SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF NEW HUMAN DISEASES HAVE THEIR ORIGINS IN THE ANIMAL KINGDOM.

THE NUMBER OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON PLANET EARTH IS INCREASING EXPONENTIALLY.

ZOONOSES ARE MORE PREVALENT IN REGIONS WITH DENSE HUMAN AND ANIMAL POPULATIONS IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH EACH OTHER. HERE, FOR EXAMPLE.

AND GLOBALISATION FACILITATES THEIR DEVELOPMENT INTO EPIDEMICS AND PANDEMICS.

DEFORESTATION AND ILLEGAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES CREATE NEW CONDITIONS OF CONTACT BETWEEN HUMANS AND WILDLIFE.

THE REASON I INSISTED THAT WE COME HERE WAS SO THAT YOU COULD SEE FOR YOURSELVES HOW THESE DISEASES CAN SPREAD.

INDEED, IMAGINE IF YOU WERE INFECTED IN THIS MARKET BY A NEW CONTAGIOUS AGENT. YOU PROBABLY WOULDN'T EVEN REALISE IT UNTIL THE END OF THE INCUBATION PERIOD.

YOU'D HAVE HEADED BACK TO EUROPE, THE U.S., LATIN AMERICA, OR AUSTRALIA AS PLANNED VIA AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

SEVERAL EVEN, IF YOU HAD STOPOVERS.

YOU'D THEREFORE HAVE INFECTED MANY PEOPLE, WHO IN TURN WOULD THEN HEAD OFF IN MANY DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.

AND THEY THEMSELVES WOULD CROSS PATHS WITH PEOPLE EN ROUTE TO... EVERYWHERE.

WITH THE RESULT THAT THE ENTIRE WORLD WOULD BE AFFECTED IN JUST A FEW DAYS.

THIS IS THE GREAT RISK OF GLOBALISATION...

SORRY, I FORGOT TO TURN IT OFF.

SAME OLD STORY, HE DOESN'T KNOW WHICH ONE IS RINGING.

AH, THERE IT IS.

?!

ARRGGH!!

MR DE LA MANCHA, ARE YOU OK?

IT'S JUST A SCRATCH...

DAMN! ONE OF MY BEST MOBILES!

THAT WAS MY ASSISTANT CALLING.

DO I SIGN HERE?

YES, MADAM.

HERE'S A TIP, NOW PLEASE EXCUSE ME... MY MOBILE.

THANK YOU, MADAM.

HELLO?

WENLING.

YOU CALLED?

YES, SORRY, MR DE LA MANCHA... A DELIVERY BOY FROM THE HOTEL RANG AT THE DOOR JUST AFTER YOUR ANSWER PHONE CAME ON.

I WANTED TO KNOW IF YOUR FILMING WAS GOING WELL.

YOU'RE A STAR ASSISTANT, WENLING. BUT YOU REALLY SHOULD MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR HOLIDAYS.

I KNOW I'M A DEMANDING BOSS, SO YOU MUST NEED SOME TIME OFF.

THAT'S VERY KIND OF YOU, BUT...

... YOU DIDN'T ANSWER ME.

EVERYTHING'S AS GOOD AS CAN BE EXPECTED.

RELAX AND GO TO THE BEACH. IT MUST BE LOVELY AT THIS TIME OF DAY IN THE SEYCHELLES.

I'M HEADING THERE FEELING REASSURED.

ENJOY THE REST OF THE DAY, SIR.

IT'S NOT OVER GUYS, AND YOU'RE LEAVING TOMORROW...

SHALL WE WRAP UP THIS SHOOT?

BUT...

I'VE ALREADY SEEN SIMILAR TUBES...

... ON THE SUIT OF THAT 'TRAVELLER' WHO APPEARED FROM OUT OF NOWHERE, IN BEIJING!

SO...

THE PIECES FIT!

IT OPENS!

NEW YORK

RING RING

WENLING?

HENRY, AM I DISTURBING YOU?

NO, DO YOU THINK...

GREAT, BECAUSE I **REALLY** NEED YOUR EXPERTISE.

BUT...

... AREN'T YOU ON HOLIDAY?

I JUST BOOKED A TICKET ONLINE. I'LL BE IN NEW YORK TOMORROW MORNING!

CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON?

SURE. BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO SIT DOWN FOR THIS ONE!

I'M ALL EARS...

IT ALL BEGAN SOME TIME AGO, IN P4, BEIJING...

SHE'S FINALLY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE TRAVELLER!

MY GOD!

THE SYMPTOMS ARE OBVIOUS: LOSS OF HAIR...

APPEARANCE OF RASH...

NEURO-EVOLVING ERYTHEMATOUS ALOPECIA. PROBABLY CYTOMEGALOVIRUS TYPE B-1049. BUT IT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN TRANSMITTED BY A MONKEY... UNLESS IT HAD MUTATED OR RECOMBINED!

HIGHLY UNCERTAIN PROGNOSIS...

BUT THAT'S NOT THE WORST OF IT!!

I'M HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS, SO IF I COME INTO CONTACT WITH ANYONE, THE ENTIRE WORLD COULD BE CONTAMINATED.

I'VE ONLY GOT ONE OPTION LEFT.

TO ISOLATE MYSELF IMMEDIATELY...

...AND LET MY COLLEAGUES KNOW.

I TOLD YOU HE WAS A WEIRDO.

LOOKS LIKE IT...

...AND WHAT THE HELL IS HE DOING WITH A SCARF OVER HIS FACE?

HEY, THAT'S NOT DE LA MANCHA IN THAT VAN IS IT?

ANYWAY, WE HAVEN'T GOT TIME FOR THAT

WE DON'T WANT TO MISS OUR FLIGHT.

JFK AIRPORT

YOU'RE RIGHT... SORRY, MINE IS ALMOST THE SAME.

HEY!!

THAT'S MY BAG!

WAIT A SEC...

YOU'RE COMING WITH US, AND DON'T MAKE A SCENE, LADY.

HEY, LET ME GO, YOU BIG YOB!

A GUY WITH A GUN...

... AND THE BOSS OF FOUR OTHER TOUGH GUYS, ALSO ARMED.

THIS WAY.

...

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

ENTER

MISS, YOU'VE FORGOTTEN YOUR SUITCASE.

YOU LET GO OF IT WITHOUT REALISING IT. AND AS I NEEDED TO APOLOGISE TO YOU...

TH... THANK YOU.

YOU'RE WELCOME!

OUCH

CLANG

CLUNK

OUCH

POW

CLUNK

DING

HURRY, MY BIKE'S OVER HERE!

PUT THIS HELMET ON.

WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON? I WANT TO KNOW!

WHO ARE YOU ANYWAY?!

IT'S TRUE, I'VE CUT MY HAIR SINCE...

IF I SAY, BLACK COAT AND FLASHING LIGHTS GOING OFF EVERYWHERE, DOES THAT RING A BELL?

YOU...

ME!

DO YOU REMEMBER THE FEW SNIPPETS OF THE STORY I HAD TIME TO TELL YOU?

ABOUT THE FUTURE, YOU MEAN?

WHICH WOULD'VE STARTED YESTERDAY, HAD I DONE NOTHING.

WELL, I SAY 'I,' BUT I'M JUST A COG IN THE WHEEL.

A WHOLE LOT OF US HAVE BEEN WORKING ON THIS INSANE PROJECT FOR YEARS NOW.

TO SAVE THIS PLANET AND ALL ITS CREATURES...

TIME WAS NOT AN ISSUE SINCE WE PLANNED TO GO BACK IN TIME.

YOU'VE REALLY GOT A TIME MACHINE?

MANY DIED DURING THE TESTS. I THOUGHT I WOULD BE ONE OF THEM MYSELF... BUT...

I WAS THE FIRST TO MAKE IT.

HENCE YOUR HYSTERICAL LAUGHTER THAT FREAKED US OUT IN P4, BEIJING...

I'VE FINALLY GOT THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ACTUALLY MEET YOU. EVER SINCE I WAS A KID, I'VE BEEN HEARING ABOUT ALL OF YOU.

ALL OF US?

THE 3 SPECIALS AND THEIR ASSISTANTS.

BUT EXACTLY WHY DID YOU CHOOSE ME FROM AMONG THE SIX?

BECAUSE YOU'RE DE LA MANCHA'S ASSISTANT...

... AND HE'S GOING TO DIE.

DIE?

YES.

IRONICALLY, HE WAS THE ONE WHO TRIGGERED THE EPIDEMIC THAT CHANGED THE WORLD.

ROOMMM

IT'S NOT HIS FAULT. IN FACT, HE DID EVERYTHING TO PREVENT IT. HE ISOLATED HIMSELF SO AS NOT TO CONTAMINATE PEOPLE, BUT UNFORTUNATELY...

KEKE!!

... SOME TV REPORTERS HE WAS WORKING WITH WERE INFECTED. AND TRANSMITTED THE DISEASE AT THE AIRPORT.

DEPRIVED OF ONE OF THEIR LEADING EXPERTS, INTERNATIONAL HEALTH ORGANISATIONS FAILED TO ACT EFFECTIVELY.

AND THE PANDEMIC SPREAD.

AT THE END OF THE EPIDEMIC, ALMOST ONE BILLION DEATHS WERE REPORTED.

AS DEVASTATING AS IT WAS, IT DIDN'T BRING ABOUT THE EXTINCTION OF THE HUMAN RACE.

OF COURSE NOT, BUT THE SAFETY MEASURES THAT FOLLOWED MADE OUR EXISTENCE TOTALLY UNBEARABLE.

THE WORST THING WAS THAT THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES ACCEPTED THEM.

BY GIVING VIRTUALLY TOTAL POWER TO DASCARI SOTUIJE.

WHO IS SOMEONE YOU KNOW.

EXCUSE ME, I'M AFRAID YOU'RE MISTAKEN THERE.

NOT AT ALL. HE'S ONE OF THE BODYGUARDS WHO INTERROGATED ME IN THE P4 LABORATORY IN BEIJING. HE TRIED TO KIDNAP ME AFTERWARDS, BUT I MANAGED TO ESCAPE. AND HE JUST TRIED TO KIDNAP YOU!

IN MY PAST, HE SEIZED POWER WITH THE SUPPORT OF A VERY POWERFUL MAFIA THAT SET UP SHOP WITH A CROOKED LABORATORY AND MANUFACTURED ANTI-PANDEMIC MEDICINE.

HE THEN TOOK MEASURES DESIGNED TO REASSURE PEOPLE, FIRST OF ALL BY SEPARATING ANIMALS FROM HUMANS.

WITHIN SEVERAL YEARS, NO MORE HUMAN-TO-ANIMAL CONTACT WAS ALLOWED.

SO EVERYONE WHO RELIED ON THEIR ANIMALS FOR SURVIVAL, IN PARTICULAR IN POOR COUNTRIES, WAS SOON EXPERIENCING FAMINE.

IT'S UTTER MADNESS...

...

I AGREE. BUT ONE BILLION DEATHS MADE IT CREDIBLE.

ESPECIALLY SINCE NOBODY TRUSTED THE OFFICIAL INSTITUTIONS ANY MORE, WHICH WERE ACCUSED OF FAILING TO ANTICIPATE WHAT HAPPENED.

THERE YOU GO... BUT PEOPLE COMPLAIN JUST AS MUCH WHEN WE'RE REALLY WELL PREPARED. 'YOU'RE DAMNED IF YOU DO, AND DAMNED IF YOU DON'T.'

I KNOW. BUT TIME NO LONGER ENTERED INTO THE EQUATION.

WITH SUCH IDEAS GAINING GROUND, OVER THE COURSE OF SEVERAL DECADES, 'WE' ALSO SAID THAT SINCE INFECTION WAS ALSO POSSIBLE BETWEEN HUMANS, THE SAFEST THING TO DO WAS TO KEEP THEM SEPARATE.

THIS IS A BIT LIKE WHAT HAPPENED WHEN BIRD FLU WAS GOING AROUND...

PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T WANT TO TRAVEL IN PUBLIC BUSES ANY MORE ALL BOUGHT CARS, WHICH CAUSED HUGE TRAFFIC JAMS AND ADDED MORE POLLUTION.

THE VERY SAME FEAR, YES.

WE LIVED A LOT LONGER, BUT WERE INCREDIBLY ISOLATED.

DEPRESSION BECAME THE MOST COMMON DISEASE.

THAT'S AWFUL.

IT WAS YEARS BEFORE OUR ANCESTORS DECIDED TO BREAK THE LAW AND MEET UP FROM TIME TO TIME.

IT WAS DURING ONE OF THESE SECRET MEETINGS THAT THE PROJECT I REPRESENT FIRST BEGAN.

I CAME WITH SERUM TUBES, FOR TWO REASONS: 1. TO SAVE YOUR BOSS.

2. TO GET SOTUIJE AND HIS LOT ON THE WRONG TRACK SO THAT THEY'D CONCENTRATE ON SOMETHING OTHER THAN WHAT BROUGHT THEM TO POWER.

I LEFT HIM TWO TUBES THAT WERE IMPOSSIBLE TO OPEN (YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I LEFT A 'KEY' WITH), AND IN ANY CASE...

NO SERUM INSIDE!

...SINCE WE DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO SYNTHESISE A LOT OF SERUM.

AND MY GOAL IS NOT TO SAVE THE ENTIRE WORLD...

...BUT TO WARN YOU SO YOU TAKE ACTION WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME...

I'D REALLY LOVE TO TRUST YOU, BUT IT'S ALL TOO CRAZY...

I'D LIKE TO HAVE THE SAMPLE YOU GAVE ME ANALYSED, TO BE SURE.

ONLY TOUGH POLITICAL DECISIONS AND CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN ALL THE PLAYERS INVOLVED CAN PREVENT THIS AND OTHER CRISES FROM OCCURRING, BY INCREASING TRUST IN YOUR OFFICIAL INSTITUTIONS.

THIS IS WHY I CAME BACK, TO GET IN TOUCH WITH ONE OF THE BEST MOLECULAR BIOCHEMISTS OF HIS GENERATION.

BUT HE WAS SUPPOSED TO WAIT FOR ME AT THE AIRPORT AND...

YOUR TELEPHONE WAS OBVIOUSLY BEING TAPPED. UNFORTUNATELY THEY MUST'VE INTERCEPTED HIM BEFORE YOU ARRIVED.

VROOOMM

BUT I CAN PROVE TO YOU THAT MY SERUM WORKS...

BUT... WE'RE BACK AT THE AIRPORT!!

WE'VE GOT A FLIGHT IN TWO AND A HALF HOURS...

GOING WHERE?

THE POOR GUY!!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

THE BATTERIES HAVE RUN OUT ON HIS MOBILE PHONES.

BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER, EVEN MINE HAS NO COVERAGE HERE.

HOW DID YOU KNOW HE WAS HERE?

IT'S THE PLACE HIS BODY WAS LATER FOUND.

AND NOW?

WE JUST HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL HE GETS BETTER... SO THAT WE CAN CONVINCE HIM.

ABOUT THIS SOTUIJE GUY?

I REALLY HOPE WE NEVER HEAR FROM HIM AGAIN...

COME IN, SOTUIJE.

WE DID IT, I TOLD YOU WE WOULD...

PLEASE, SIT DOWN.

I KNEW THAT IF WE KEPT AN EYE ON THIS WENLING, WE'D GET WHAT WE WANTED.

I'D NEVER USE THE WORD 'LUCK', I'D CALL IT...

SOME MIGHT CALL IT LUCK, BUT ME, I'D CALL IT SUCCESS. SUCCESS BELONGS TO THOSE WHO DO EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.

EVEN THOUGH SHE ESCAPED FROM US AFTERWARDS, I MANAGED TO STEAL THE SERUM KEY FROM HER.

... SWINDLING!

WHAT... WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?

IF YOU'D KEPT YOUR PROMISE, I'D HAVE KEPT MINE.

SOTUIJE, DON'T GO THINKING I'M A BAD SPORT.

I'M RESPECTED FOR THAT.

THE LAB HAS JUST INFORMED ME THAT THE OPEN FLASK CONTAINS NOTHING MORE THAN SWEETENED WATER.

A REAL SHAME...

YOU LEFT HIM A TUBE OPENER?

YES, IN THE LIFT. HE PROBABLY BELIEVED IT WAS YOURS, LOST DURING THE FIGHT. HE MUST'VE THOUGHT HE FINALLY GOT WHAT HE WANTED, BEFORE REALISING THAT THE TUBES I LEFT IN HIS CAR CONTAINED NOTHING MORE THAN SYRUP.

ISN'T THERE A RISK THAT HE'LL WANT REVENGE?

EVEN THOUGH I DESPISE HIM MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE ALIVE, I ALMOST FEEL SORRY FOR HIM KNOWING WHAT HIS SO-CALLED FRIENDS MUST'VE PUT HIM THROUGH ONCE THEY REALISED THEY'D BEEN TRICKED...

THERE WE GO!

CONNECTED!!

510 MESSAGES ON ONE, 701 ON THE OTHER...

501 messages

I'M ALMOST DISAPPOINTED: I EXPECTED MORE.

AND IT'S EXACTLY WHAT I NEED TO TALK TO MY COLLEAGUES ABOUT, ASAP!

781 messages

NO TIME TO LISTEN TO THEM, AND IN ANY CASE, I'M PRETTY SURE I KNOW WHAT THEY'RE ABOUT!

DE LA MANCHA, AT LAST!!

SAMUEL, I'D ALMOST GIVEN UP!!

WHERE THE HECK WERE YOU?!

WE HAVE A MAJOR CRISIS ON OUR HANDS!

IF YOU TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT MY FACE, YOU'LL REALIZE THAT I WAS THE FIRST TO FIND OUT...

HAVE YOU BEEN...

...INFECTED?!

YES, I WAS THE FIRST. I TRIED TO ISOLATE MYSELF IN A PLACE THAT UNFORTUNATELY HAD NO MOBILE COVERAGE.

BUT THE WORST THING IS THAT IT WAS ALL FOR NOTHING. THE DISEASE MUST'VE SPREAD THROUGH THE JOURNALISTS WHO WERE WITH ME.

YES, THE SITUATION IS AWFUL.

FORTUNATELY I WAS CURED BY SOMEONE WHO HAS THE SOLUTION TO STOP THIS CRISIS.

THE MIRACLE IS... HIM!

IT'S OUT OF CONTROL.

BY WHAT MIRA-

AND I AM PARTICULARLY GLAD TO DECLARE THIS EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE EP OPEN, IN DUPLEX WITH NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON. DEAR SECRETARY GENERAL, DEAR SECRETARY OF STATE, THANK YOU FOR JOINING US AT THIS HISTORIC MOMENT.

COLLEAGUES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE WORST INFECTIOUS ACCIDENT IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND HAS BEEN CONTROLLED IN A FEW WEEKS AND, DESPITE SAD LOSSES, MANY MILLIONS OF LIVES HAVE BEEN SAVED.

Outgoing EU Presidency
President of the Council
Chairman of the European Parliament
President of the Commission
High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE IN PERSON. HOW DID YOU CONVINCE YOUR BOSSES NOT TO STAY WITH THEM?

IT IS GOOD FOR THE PICTURES. TODAY THE WORLD'S JOURNALISTS ARE ALL ASSEMBLED HERE. OUR PRESS CONFERENCE THIS AFTERNOON IS STRATEGIC.

I HOPE ALL THOSE 'VIRUS CARRIERS' ARE IN GOOD HEALTH NOW. BRRR... NOW STOP WHISPERING AND LET ME LISTEN TO OUR POLITICAL LEADERS.

LOSSES HAVE BEEN LIMITED TO LESS THAN ONE MILLION HUMAN LIVES AND THE SPREAD OF VIRUS B1049 WAS STOPPED IN JUST SIX WEEKS ONCE THE LARGE-SCALE SERUM AND VACCINE PRODUCTION PHASE WAS LAUNCHED BY THE VOLUNTARY EMERGENCY PHARMACEUTICAL CONSORTIUM.

Pandemic B1049
The Way Forward

COLLEAGUES, BEFORE WE PROCEED WITH THE ANSWERS TO YOUR WRITTEN AND ORAL QUESTIONS, I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE THE FLOOR TO OUR DISTINGUISHED GUESTS OF HONOUR.

THIS CRISIS WAS UNPRECEDENTED AND SO HAS BEEN THE GLOBAL RESPONSE. IT WAS MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO SWIFT DIPLOMATIC ACTION AND THE EXTRAORDINARY NETWORKING OF OFFICIALS, EXPERTS, AND CIVIL SOCIETY ACROSS BORDERS, LANGUAGES AND PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINES, UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL ORGANISATIONS.

THE FEAR THIS CREATED CAN BE TURNED TO GOOD USE IN IMPROVING OUR LONG-TERM HEALTH SECURITY, WELL-BEING AND LIVELIHOODS. ALL OUR POLITICAL PARTNERS ASSEMBLED TODAY HAVE ENCOURAGED THE UNITED NATIONS, OTHER ORGANISATIONS AND ACADEMIA TO EMBARK ON A MORE INTEGRATED AND CROSS-SECTORAL APPROACH TO HEALTH.

THE 'ONE HEALTH' APPROACH THAT ADDRESSES HEALTH RISKS AT THE INTERSECTION BETWEEN ANIMALS, HUMANS AND THEIR VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTS WILL BE ONE OF THE KEY GLOBAL CHALLENGES IN THE YEARS TO COME. I AM PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT THIS APPROACH REFLECTS OUR ERA AND THE NEW UNCERTAINTY REGARDING INFECTIOUS RISKS.

NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY THE EU HAS TWO PRESIDENTS. ONE IS NEEDED TO MAKE THE OTHER ROTATE!

STOP IT, JACK... THIS IS SERIOUS BUSINESS.

COMMUNICATION IN THIS AREA WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT. NEITHER CITIZENS, COMPANIES, OR THE PRESS LIKE TO HEAR THAT THE EXPERTS DO NOT KNOW IT ALL. WE HAVE TO EXPLAIN UNCERTAINTY. WOW.

COULD THE COMMISSION EXPLAIN HOW THE ONE HEALTH APPROACH GOES BEYOND JUST THE CONTROL OF ZOONOSES?

ONE HEALTH IS A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO HEALTH BASED ON NEW AND BETTER COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE SECTORS THAT ARE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY RELATED TO ANIMAL AND HUMAN HEALTH. AMONG OTHER THINGS, IT INCLUDES THE ENVIRONMENT, WILDLIFE AND VARIOUS DISCIPLINES RELATED TO DEVELOPMENT IN GENERAL.

PARTNERS HAVE FLEXIBILITY IN DEFINING THEIR SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES MORE OR LESS BROADLY. FOR INSTANCE, THE COMMISSION EMPHASISES THE POTENTIAL OF ONE HEALTH TO HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS AND ON FOOD AND HUMAN SECURITY.

DOES THE COMMISSION PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN SETTING UP ANY NEW INSTITUTIONS TO DEAL WITH GOVERNANCE OF THIS APPROACH?

ONE HEALTH BELONGS TO ITS ACTORS AND BUILDS UPON EXISTING CAPABILITIES AND RESOURCES: KEY POLITICAL ACTORS, UN TECHNICAL AGENCIES, THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH, REGIONAL BODIES, ACADEMIA, DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS AND OTHERS. ITS SUCCESS WILL DEPEND ON FLEXIBLE NETWORKING.

AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN TAXPAYER, I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF EMBARKING ON THIS APPROACH...

ONE HEALTH IS NOT ABOUT ADDING AN ADDITIONAL LAYER OF EXTERNAL ACTIONS - WHICH WOULD INDEED REQUIRE ADDITIONAL FUNDING. IT IS BASICALLY ABOUT WORKING FOR HEALTH IN A MORE INTEGRATED WAY AND THINKING DIFFERENTLY AT THE POLICY-MAKING AND PLANNING STAGE.

BELIEVE ME, IT WILL BE A LONG SESSION. THEY HAVE PREPARED TONS OF TOUGH QUESTIONS THIS TIME.

LET'S HAVE DINNER IN THE CENTRE OF BRUSSELS THIS EVENING. I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE BEER, SAM WILL TAKE CARE OF THE WINE - HE IS AN EXPERT - AND CHARLOTTE, WOULD YOU ORDER THE LOCAL CUISINE FOR US?

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

AND FINALLY, OUR HEARTFELT THANKS GO OUT TO SOMEONE WE CANNOT NAME, BUT WHO RISKED HIS LIFE TO OPEN OUR EYES.

SPEAKING FOR ALL THE PARTNERS OF THE 'ONE HEALTH CHALLENGE FOR THE FUTURE,' THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING TODAY.

ARE YOU PLANNING TO HEAD OFF INTO THE FUTURE AGAIN?

DO I REALLY HAVE A CHOICE?

WHEN IS THE MACHINE GOING TO TAKE YOU BACK?

WHAT MACHINE, WENLING?

THE TIME-TRAVEL MACHINE...

AH, IMPOSSIBLE!

IT WAS PROGRAMMED AS A SINGLE TRIP... ONE-WAY ONLY

THE FUTURE, I'M HEADING THERE JUST LIKE YOU: BY GETTING OLD.

WITH THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BEING THAT I WILL DIE MANY YEARS BEFORE I AM BORN...

BUT IN A MUCH BETTER WORLD.

I'M LUCKY.

WE ALL ARE...

BACK TO REALITY

Ms Chan Wenling and her friend-from-the-future are engaged in an exciting adventure to convince people to act together and save the world. While the story may be fictional, it is nevertheless intertwined with some factual information. This section offers further reference for some of the story's 'real life elements' and allows you to discover the scientific facts behind the fiction!

1_ Beijing 2006

The first International Ministerial Conference on Avian (Animal) and Pandemic Influenza took place in Beijing in January 2006. It was hosted by the Chinese government and co-sponsored by the European Commission (the initiator of the conference) and the World Bank.

The main outcomes of this event were:

- A global agreement (The Declaration of Beijing) endorsed at the highest level by more than 100 countries and representatives of international and regional organisations, agencies, the private sector and civil society;

A commitment to:

Develop and implement integrated national plans at country level to combat highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI);

Build a long-term strategic partnership between the international community and the countries affected or at risk;

Share information and biological materials related to HPAI;

Increase cooperation on global research, including research on vaccines and antivirals;

Evaluate the results and the impact of these efforts.

Pledges of assistance to combat HPAI amounting to a total of $1.9 billion, of which approximately € 214 million was provided by the European Union in the form of grants.

More information on the Beijing Conference is available at: **www.eeas.europa.eu/health/index_en.htm**

in particular under: **ec.europa.eu/world/avian_influenza**

The outcome and impact evaluation of the Global Response to avian influenza is available at **www.eeas.europa.eu/health/docs/health_grai_en.pdf**

2_ P4 Laboratory

The acronym P4 stands for Level 4 pathogens and biosafety agents, meaning micro-organisms with high pathogenic potential. P4 laboratories are very high-security compounds where highly pathogenic, often very contagious and deadly infectious agents are manipulated for research. Recent examples of pathogens handled in P4 laboratories include the viral agent of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) – a coronavirus – and the Ebola, Marburg, Lassa and Congo-Crimea viruses. P4 labs are closed facilities with many layers of security, including positive air pressure in the 'space suits' used by the limited number of scientists authorised to work in the core rooms of the compounds. There are fewer than 20 P4 labs in the world.

3_ Ebola, Marburg, Lassa Viruses

Source/Adapted from: Wikipedia

They are the pathogens (viruses) responsible for hemorrhagic fevers, diseases characterized by damage to the interior surface of blood vessels and the destruction of normal coagulation mechanisms leading to internal haemorrhaging and often death.

First recognized in Congo (formerly Zaire) in 1976, the Ebola virus is responsible for Ebola hemorrhagic fever, which provokes death in 50 to 90% of cases. There are various types of Ebola viruses, some non-pathogenic in humans but fatal in animals, and some extremely aggressive in humans. There is no specific treatment for this disease.

Bats are considered as the most likely reservoir. In some cases the disease can be transmitted to humans through gorillas, chimpanzees or duikers (sub-Saharan antelopes), generally through contact with carcasses of these animals, after which the virus passes directly from human to human.

The Ebola virus is a potential agent for biological warfare. It is also partly responsible for the decline in chimpanzee populations observed since 2003.The Lassa fever resembles Ebola, has high infectious potential (up to 50% of the population in affected areas) and spreads rapidly. It is responsible for deadly epidemics, mainly in West Africa, where between 300,000 and 500,000 cases occur every year, with death tolls ranging from 5000 to 6000. The vector is a rat.

The Marburg virus is hosted by bats and until 2000 primarily affected the Eastern and South African regions. Two major epidemics occurred in Congo (2000) and Angola (2005).

4_ Zoonoses

Zoonoses are diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans, and the reverse. They can be caused by bacteria, viruses, fungi, parasites or non-conventional transmission agents (like the prions responsible for Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (mad cow disease)).

Around 70% of new human infectious diseases (the so-called emerging infectious diseases or EIDs) originate in animals. The number of EIDs is increasing exponentially, with new ones diagnosed almost every year. Better surveillance of diseases might partially explain this trend but the main factor seems to be the increase in the size of human and animal populations, together with dramatic changes in human and animal movements around the planet in the context of globalisation.
Diseases do not know borders. Viruses and other agents benefit from larger population reservoirs, more numerous contacts between populations and various species and a strong boost to circulation around the planet. At every instant, hundreds of thousands of passengers are sitting on commercial flights, connecting airports as if they were houses in the same village. Planes also transport live animals (like one-day chicks), eggs, carcasses, meat products, seafood, embryos and semen for breeding.

5_ One Health

'One Health' (OH) is an integrated approach to health that focuses on the interactions between animals, humans, and their diverse environments. It encourages collaboration, synergies and cross-fertilisation between all professional sectors and actors in general whose activities may have an impact on health.

6_ Destruction in Countries

In many countries of the world, particularly the poorest, human livelihoods are closely related to the health of animals. Animals in good health are less likely to transmit diseases, and their production can be optimised in given environments. It is often forgotten that in addition to the human toll of slightly more than 300 deaths (registered cases only) from the highly pathogenic avian influenza epidemic, there was also an economic toll to poultry production, with over two hundred million birds killed in order to contain the disease. The impact of these measures on life conditions and the well-being of the poor in particular has not been evaluated but must be enormous.

7_ Cross-Sectoral Cooperation: Whole of Society Approach

Recent health crises (like SARS, the H5N1 epidemic and the A(H1N1)2009 influenza pandemic) have demonstrated that many more sectors were involved in health crisis prevention and response than the 'traditional' health sub-sectors (human and public health on the one hand, animal health on the other). Sectors like the environment, wildlife, agriculture, transport, media, and the schools, to name a few, are also key. Cross-sectoral cooperation aims at involving all relevant professional sectors in a common goal, in this case, health crisis prevention and where necessary, response, along with encouraging a contribution to global health. The experiences of H5N1 and H1N1 have also shown that efforts towards better health should not be limited to specialists but should involve society as a whole, including political leaders, opinion-makers, teachers, and citizens in general.

8_ Pandemic Readiness

While pandemic preparedness refers to efforts to prevent, manage and mitigate the effects of a pandemic, pandemic readiness refers to an ongoing status in which all sectors of society are continuously ready for a pandemic, or indeed any major health risk with the potential to disrupt normal life. The global response to the H5N1 and A(H1N1)2009 influenzas resulted in a fair level of pandemic readiness in some countries, while more work is required in others.

9_ Communication: Explain Uncertainty

Communication has been a challenge during the H5N1 and A(H1N1)2009 crises. In spite of many efforts, it is often perceived as insufficient and sometimes contradictory.

Health risks are changing with globalisation, and new strategies – including better global coordination – must be designed and agreed upon for communication efforts. One way forward is probably through better explanation to the public and front-line professionals that '*the experts do not know it all*' and that in fact they often 'do not know.' Although this may complicate the life of political decision-makers, candid statements on what is certain and what is not clearly known might increase confidence in times of crisis, and avoid the '*damned if you do, damned if you don't*' phenomenon. ■